

WJOX's atrium visit offers glimpse into radio biz

When the three "morning drive" talk jocks of WJOX visited Shelton State Thursday, April 5, from 6-10 a.m. there was as much to learn about the media for the attentive onlooker as the radio personalities had to share with their audience about the Buccaneer sports program.



Former UA quarterback Jay Barker signs an autograph for Tide fan Loretta Jones.

One by one, most of the Shelton coaches got their minutes on the air, and they all acquitted themselves well in telling the tale of their Buccaneer sport.

Besides enjoying the spectacle of watching the coaches prepare for their hot-seat turn, it was fascinating to watch the

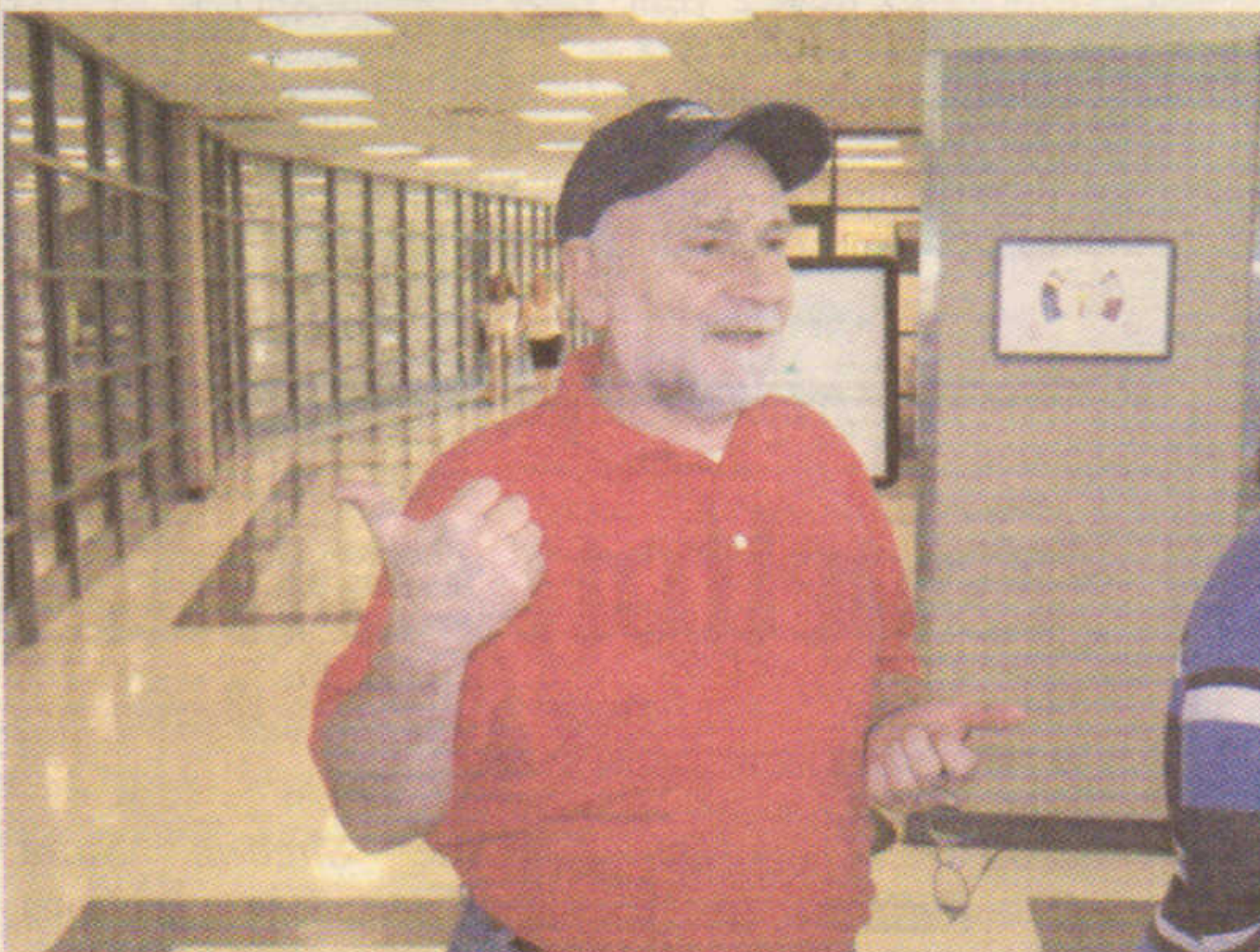
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The E-Man drops by



Elvis, aka Bruce Evans, was a surprise guest star at the second annual Sock Hop fundraiser for Relay for Life in the atrium at Shelton State.

Mallory gives low-down on his comedic career



By Henri Chermie

Dr. Allen Mallory is a well known teacher in these halls, but for those of you who don't know him, let's get to know him better in the second part of my two part Allen Mallory Interview.

Dr. Mallory's office is great. It's filled with papers, toys, and random bits of kitsch: a Geode, a

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A dream Brittany Norris didn't know she had comes true

By Melissa Chamblee

From the time she was four years old Brittany Norris knew she loved to sing and that she was pretty good at it. Taking the verses



Brittany Norris has parlayed a successful career at Shelton into a music scholarship at the University of Mobile.

from popular children's songs and Disney movies, Brittany would sit in her room singing in perfect tune to her parent's home video camera.

At the age of nine, while attending Gallion Baptist Church, just outside of Demopolis, Children's Choir Director Bill Baker pulled her voice from a sea

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Mallory

From Page 1

duck, a copy of *A Brief History of Time*, and for some odd reason, a lone cymbal from a drum set. There's a great sense of randomness to it all that defines his character. Before we even began he was walking in and out of the office taking care of a few loose ends. When he finally got situated and comfortable, I began my interview.

Courier: When did you get started doing your comedy?

Mallory: '89 or '90...hold on...yep...1989.

SC: You said before, you were doing this at teaching workshops?

AM: Yes, I started doing this at traditional teaching workshops. I was doing it every summer and then one summer they called and said "Look, we have had a few teachers who have been saying they've had a tough time getting into your seminar, and they've won't come unless they can get in, why don't you speak to everyone. So, I did, and got paid 150 bucks. I got a big head about that. My wife said, 'You're crazy. There were 600 women there to see you, who paid 50 dollars apiece, and you're excited because you got paid 150 dollars? You're crazy. You need to do this on your own.' So, I called Bruce Ayers (Owner

of the Stardome in Birmingham) and told him my idea. He was skeptical at first, but let me do it on a Monday night with a promise I'd fill the club. After the success of that, Cindy, my wife, came up with the idea of traveling. We traveled all over the United States to sold out shows for 13 or 14 years.

SC: This is the question that every comedian hates to get, where do you get your material?

AM: Simply this. 1974 is the first year I started working with children. At lunch sometimes I would tell the director of the program, Mrs. Maxwell, about the things the kids would do or say. For example: One kid would pick his nose and go "This booger is green." And his friend would say, "Well mine's yellow, wanna trade?" Two kids were talking about where babies come from and one said, "Babies come from K-Mart." She told me that I need to write this stuff down. I said, "Mrs. Maxwell, there's no way I could forget this stuff." But about three or four years later I did start to forget. So I began to write it down, and began to use them in class or at a workshop to illustrate a point. And eventually these workshops evolved into this comedy club thing.

SC: What is your writing process?

AM: Hope that I can find that note. Any piece of

paper. At a hotel, beside the bed, I'll wake up in the night and write something. At my age, and though I've never been tested, probably ADD, I better write it down. Then the problem becomes finding what I wrote and then the next problem is reading what I wrote. Anything that I would find interesting and funny, and with a point, I'll write it down. And that's how it went from seminars to stand up. It was funny, but it had a point, so that's why I entitled it "Laugh and Learn." Kids learn better when they are having fun, so adults should too.

SC: Who first compared you to Bill Cosby?

AM: Lenny Sissleman. Good luck spelling that one. He was a comedy club owner in North Carolina I was explaining to him "I do this thing, and it's about kids and education, and development, and I'll fill your club on a Monday or Tuesday night." And he said, "You do what now?" It was a kind of a hard sell on the phone. He turned me down, until one day I got lucky and got his club manager instead of him. He booked me, but Lenny wasn't too happy to see me. We had about 400 people at his club, so he wanted to see was it was all about. After the show, he was impressed. He said to me, "I'm trying to peg your humor. You don't tell jokes, you're clean, and you have a doctorate degree in education. I'll be damned if you're not Bill Cosby."

SC: Will you continue to do comedy after you retire?

AM: Well, there are always grandkids. I would imagine, because I am not so sure when I'll retire. I have about 5, 10 years to go before I retire, and even then, I'll be teaching a class or two at Shelton, and like I do now, if someone calls to book me for a night, or a Saturday thing, I'll fly out Saturday morning, do my thing, come back Sunday. So I would imagine I would do a few little things around the country.

SC: Is it better to be funny or funny looking?

AM: I would guess funny. Funny looking only goes so far. I think in the end, even with Sanjaya, your looks can only take you so far.

SC: As we come to the end of our interview could you leave us with your

favorite story from the road?

AM: I was doing my thing, and about half way through there was some commotion in the back. I saw 5 or 6 people get up and leave. That'll throw you off. So they got up and left and I was confused. But then, they came back and I was wondering "What is going on." And then they finally left. So at the end of the show I thought, "Well, they didn't like it." Finally, I found my wife and I said, "Honey, what happened? They left. I mean, they didn't like it?" She said, "No. One of the ladies went into labor. She was laughing so hard, and that sent her into labor." They were trying to get her to leave and she said, "No, I want to see this. I want to get to the end." It was the exact opposite of what I thought. We had their number from registration, so we called the next day, and she had delivered that night. I was able to laugh one into labor.



Mayberry re-enactors from all over the country gathered in Northport the weekend of April 20 to raise money for the Eagle's Wings charity.

The Shelton State
Courier is brought
to its readers by the
academic and
extra-curricular
programs of
Shelton State
Community
College.

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Courier is a campus
newspaper, written
and produced with the help
of students.

Among other functions,
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written and artistic material.

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Editorial

The Lessons of Virginia Tech? Let's See...

By Matt Celozzi
Courier Editor

Last Monday in Blacksburg started out no differently than in any other college town in America: Students groggily rolled out of bed, reluctant to begin another week of studying. Instructors prepared their lesson plans and hurried to put grades to those last un-graded papers. But on this seemingly unremarkable day, a seemingly unremarkable person did something quite remarkable, maybe for the first time in his life. And that's exactly what Cho Seung-Hui was, strikingly unremarkable. So how, then, are we to answer the myriad of questions that are sure to arise in the wake of something like this, the most obvious of which: 'What would drive someone to do this?' and, 'How do we prevent this from happening again?'

The reason the second is so hard to answer is that there is simply no way to predict a tragedy like this. That's why they call it a tragedy. Cho's presence on the V.T. campus was, until then, rather inauspicious. He never really stood out in a sea of 26,000 students. We're now told that his writing assignments were bizarre and violent, and alarming to his instructors, so much so that he was eventually examined by doctors. But based simply on that, who among us can honestly say that they could have seen this coming?

So now many people are warning that we must be more aware of people like that around us. We heard this sentiment after Columbine: that there are always warning signs and we must heed them in order to prevent another occurrence. But while this seems like a good idea, I find it hard to believe that anyone could

ever predict an outburst like this. Do we want to live in a society where everyone is second-guessed and suspected just for being "weird"? Because that's what vigilant attitudes like that will eventually lead to. Cho's writings and behavior were inappropriate, bizarre and disturbing; all of them clear warning signs... when using hindsight.

So what could lead someone like him to commit such an unspeakable act? After Columbine the resounding opinion was that people resort to acts like this because they are driven to it by the cruelty of others. But while that may have been true in Littleton, Colo., it doesn't appear to be the case here. To me it appears much more likely that Cho was driven to it by his inability to cope with the stress of our fast-paced, dog-eat-dog society. All the evidence is right there in his writings.

He wrote about his hatred for "rich kids" and their "debauchery." College life is problematic enough without heaping on top of it the jealous anger that he displayed. The cruelty that he felt was not from a particular person or group, it was from society at large, which was simply too much for him to handle.

But the world around Cho that he had such trouble identifying with and fitting into is the same world that we all deal with every day. And must of us don't lash out in this manner. Because that's the contract we have with society: An agreement not to take our personal grief out on innocent bystanders.

Cho broke the contract; severed it, in fact. The surviving students at V.T. have already forgiven him. It is now up to us, society, to try and do the same.

COLLEGE
OF SOFT
KNOCKS

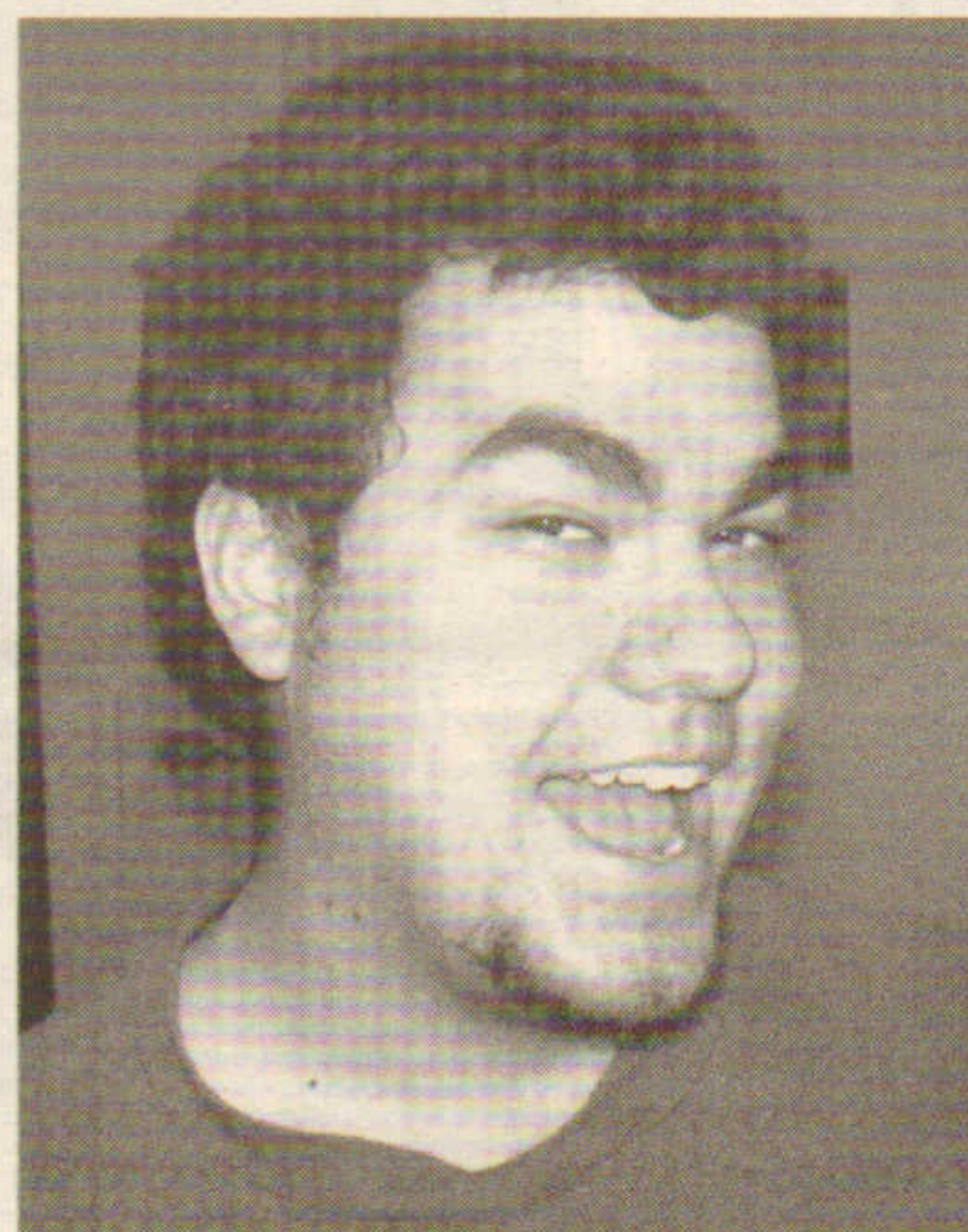
*Humor by
Henri Cheramie*

I hear a lot of talk on the streets about Pirates vs. Ninjas these days and I often wonder: Who really would win in this age old battle? It's a question of who's more prepared, really. Pirates are known to travel en masse and often have many weapons at their disposal. Ninjas usually only travel in groups of two to four and can only use what they can carry. Pirates know the waterways and ninjas know the silent ways. No one ever talks about being kidnapped by a group of stealthy buccaneers. These battles have raged on for centuries, and, usually, been confined to dojos or ships. But what happens when these battles start leaking out into society? What can be done to stop this patched and hooded menace?

Police Lieutenant Sam Hain has seen many fantastic battles fought that he ultimately had to break up. "We used to have a lot of Cobras fighting Joes, Auto-Bots fighting Decepticons. Heck, we even had a mummy come in and a group of cat-like humanoids came and stopped him and his monster buddies. Most of the time, these fights work themselves out, and only when it got bad did we need to come and break it up. But this pirate vs. ninja stuff is tough for a lot of reasons. For one, there ain't no clear cut bad guy. The moral ambiguity of these fighters makes it hard for us to stop them. Secondly, them sabers and ninja stars hurt like a son-of-a-gun. And third, you ever try to tow a boat off of the street? It's just darn near

impossible man."

Lieutenant Hain says that this year alone he's booked twenty-five pirates and about fifteen ninjas. "The numbers would have been more, but those ninjas



can vanish faster than you can say 'Elvis is alive!'. As for pirates, we can't keep them boys in jail. They just use their cannons to bust right out. It's not financially feasible to have to keep repairing walls and having these guys in jail. Plus, the ones that do pay their bail usually use fish, or doubloons, or even life debts to get out. Buddy, you can't run a jail on life debts." When I asked what the motive could possibly be for their fighting, Lieutenant Hain just shook his head. "I've asked that question a thousand times, and I've never been given a real reason. Just lettin' off steam, I guess."

Many people's lives have been disrupted by these fighters. Ella Lancaster, 81, fears leaving her house because her neighborhood has become a prime battle-

Battling for Supremacy

ground. "The first time I saw these young men fighting on my lawn, my first instinct was to turn the hose on them. That seemed to scare them, but the next day, when I went to water my begonias, my hose had been cut in half and a ransom note demanding 50 pieces of eight for the other half was there. My begonias have since died, and I lost the best yard competition."

But not only are the elderly affected; what about the children? Laurie Strode, a local babysitter, has seen a change in the aspirations of the children she looks after. "A lot of eye patches and karate lessons now. Kids think it's cool to break maritime law." Will the madness never end?

So for now, these battles seem to rage on, while a helpless public and police force looks on. I asked both groups to speak with me for this article; they refused. A representative of the Ninjas snuck into my house and handed me a statement and vanished. The statement read, "Stop writing your article or we shall be forced to destroy you. Ninja vanish..." Soon after, a brick was hurled through my window. The note attached to the brick simply said, "ARRRRRRGH!" -The Pirates.

So, until next issue, lets hope I haven't been keel hauled or shanghaied. This just goes to show you that in this world, you don't have to have anything in common to fight one another, just the search for booty and a really cool katana blade.

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three jocks ply their trade—each in their own way.

Tony Kurre is an old-hand at the radio game, having been a DJ in several different formats, most

recently on an oldie station. Al Del Greco is a very well known name for long-time football followers in the state of Alabama. He kicked for Auburn University before having a long and successful career in the NFL.

Jay Barker has been famous around these parts ever since he played quarterback for the Tide, taking the 1991 team as a freshman to its last national championship. Now he shows up regularly on TV car ads, with his infamous "Roll Chevy, roll!" slogan.

Kurre smoothly kept the talk going whether anyone was sitting in the chair in front of the DJs or not. Del Greco was a smiling, gently bantering

presence, befitting someone whose last professional football salary was over \$800,000 per year.

Barker one could watch visibly improving in the radio trade he has adopted. He read several ads with a convincing inflection that didn't sound like reading; then he did an ad for Bromberg Jeweller off the top of his head, ticking off the details as if, this time, he were reading.

All morning the three performed the celbriy dance with the public: shaking hands, signing autographs, leaping in an out of chairs, putting their headphones on and taking them off as soon as they went off the air.

The day the Jox drive team visited Shelton State was a fun day to hang around the atrium.



Wellness Director Dr. Milady Murphy (Above)

(At R.) Women's Basketball Coach Madonna Thompson was hardly congratulated for her recent championship by WJOX talk-meisters (L-R) Jay Barker, Al Del Greco and Tony Kurre



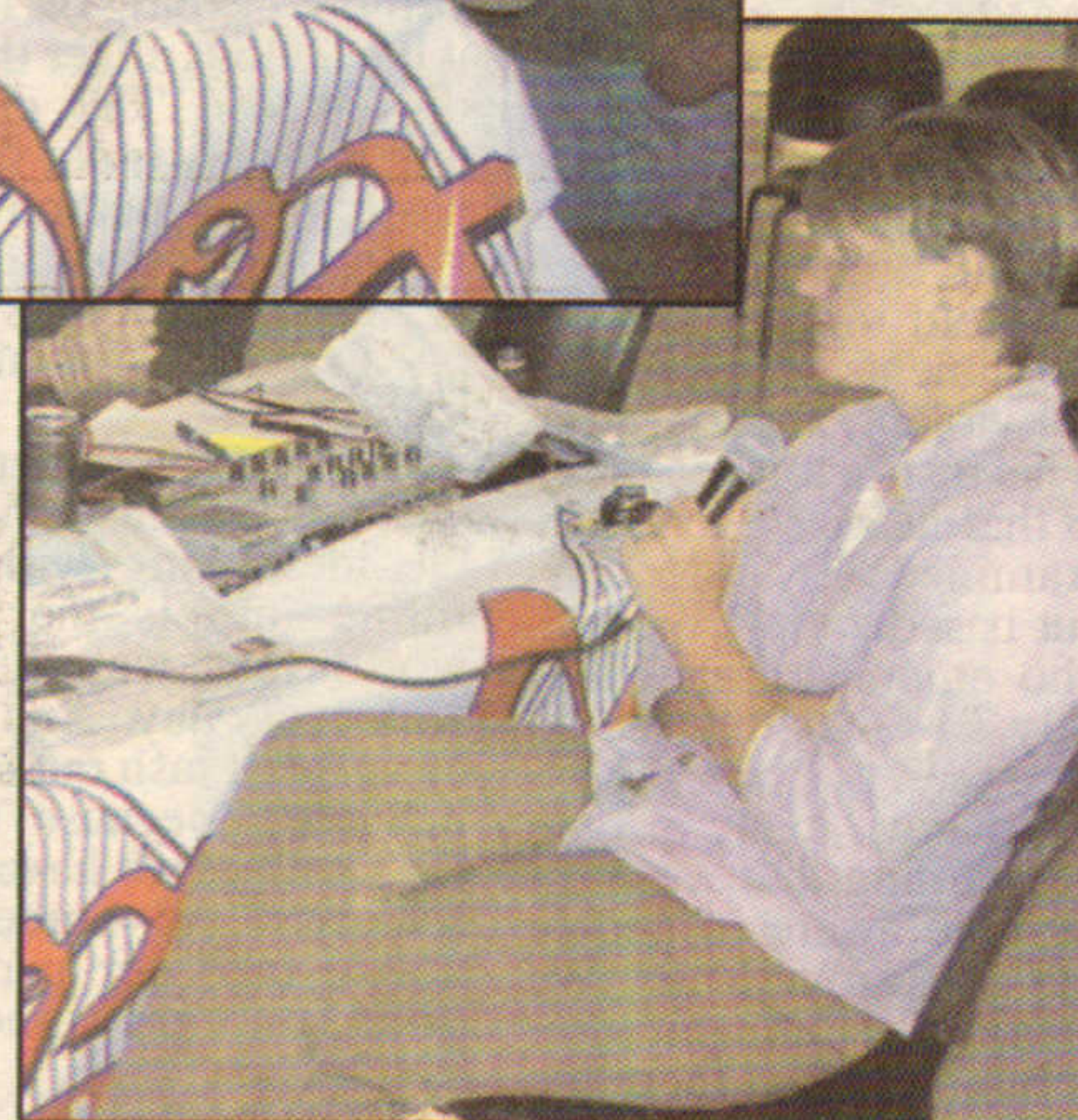
(Above) Basketball Coach and Athletic Director Barry Mohun (Back R.) gets snapped with two state football icons.



Baseball Coach Bobby Sprowl



Wellness Instructor Kareem McNeil



Soccer Coach Nellie Christian

Shel-Shots

At the Hop!

Scenes from the second annual Relay for Life Sock Hop featured on the left side of the page include: Sonny Logan, as a soda jerk from Al's Diner; Martha Key, Logan, Sherry Harrison, John Speights and Miriam Aycock greet Elvis (aka Bruce Evans); Speights (aka Roy Orbison) brought his for-real motorcycle to the atrium.

Down the right side: The Lady Bucs connect on a pitch against Jeff State on Saturday, April 21; Eric Johnson, Matthew Hyche and Steven Glenn experiment with sound waves in Sharon Vincent's Physics 214 class; P.T.K. raised \$425 for Relay for Life at their recent bake sale.



Human Resources department gives O.A.D. intern students genuine office experience

By Melissa Chamblee

Shelton State offers a variety of technical programs, ranging from Nursing to Culinary Arts and everything in between, chances are you will find something that sparks your interest here at Shelton.

Among all these fascinating careers lies the Office Administration Department, which has concentrations in Information Processing, Legal Secretary, Medical Records and Medical Transcription.

Many students in the O.A.D program not only leave Shelton and head into the workforce with a first class education, but also with work experience, thanks to the internship opportunity's offered right here on campus in the Human Resources Department.

Lori Swindle of the Shelton State Human Resources Department explains what the O.A.D internship consists of:

"We've had, I believe a student every semester, they work with us about ten hours a week for ten weeks, the program is through the Office Administration Department and their instructor is Sheree Datcher. She's had a 99% success rate in placing these students in a position outside the college after they finish the intern program."

Swindle also said: "We have never had a bad intern;

we've tried to show them what it means to work in a Human Resource office, like teaching them the importance of confidentiality. They copy things and file, they also have done spreadsheets.

"This internship is done

very efficient and require very little supervision. It has been a tremendous plus for us to find student that are well prepared for the work place. I have been very impressed with the quality of student coming out of the O.A.D program and it has been a tremendous benefit to our department."

The current O.A.D intern is Alisha Sellers of Selma who is getting the Office Administration two year degree with concentration

in Information Processing and Legal Secretary. Alisha said that with the

degree she is obtaining she will be prepared to work in any type of office. Sellers feels that the Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and Filing skills she learned in class will really help her on the job.

While she likes all the instructors, she finds one class particularly interesting: Introduction to Information Highway, we learn web page design and we will have to design a web page by the end of class."

With all the technical programs available, students seem to sometimes sell themselves short of this invaluable opportunity. Many might find that by getting a technical degree they will have many doors opened to them that could possibly offer a future of job opportunities and a practical source of income.

in their last semester, and they receive a grade for this as a class. This has been very beneficial to us because it has helped us get through projects that we might not have gotten to otherwise."

Johnny Parker of the Human Resources Department at Shelton expressed his thoughts on the program: "For about the last four or five semesters we have partnered with the Office Administration Department in their internship program and the students that have worked in our office over that time have been nothing short of exceptional, their great students, they have a very strong work ethic, they require minimal explanation on the tasks that are assigned to them."

Parker added: "They work very hard; they are



O.A.D. intern Alisha Sellers works with H.R.'s Johnny Parker and Lori Swindle on her last day of duty on the third floor at Shelton State. O.A.D. students learn important office skills in such areas as information processing, medical records and transcription, and as legal secretary.

Sisters in *Crime* made you fall in love

Actresses. Actresses. Actresses.

From Sarah Bernhardt to Meryl Streep, the female actors of the American stage and screen have used their charms to make their audiences—especially the males therein—fall in love. There they are up on the stage, being glamorous, desirable... unattainable.

much aplomb as anyone ever has in the Bean-Brown Theatre.

Finally there was Kasey Kathleen McCarver's Babe Botrelle, the bona fide

Southern Gothic sweetheart. The plot revolved around her shooting of her husband and her oh-so-charmingly morbid reaction to the deed.



Audiences fell in love with the three leads of *Crimes of the Heart*: Meagan Jennings, Jenny Ryan, and Kasey Kathleen McCarver.

Such was the case, once again, during the April 13-22 run of Theatre Tuscaloosa's *Crimes of the Heart*. All three of the play's Magrath sisters tug at the audience's hearts in different and unique ways.

First there was Lenny, as played sweetly and subtly by Jenny Ryan. Lenny is so lonely when the story opens she is sneaking around making wishes and blowing out a solitary candle (sans cake), to mark her own birthday. Your heart goes out to her first.

Then there's Meg Magrath, played with an insouciant and supercilious sexiness by Meagan Jennings. She pulled off the classic femme fatale with as

There is something missing or vaguely hollow at the core of Beth Henley's Pulitzer Prize-winning play after just 20 years. But there was nothing amiss or awry in the actors' portrayals of the three main characters (or in the other three, for that matter).

Arguably by the 21st century the stereotypes of the contemporary Southern female as rendered in *Crimes* do not still ring perfectly true.

However, if Lenny, Meg and Babe are slightly off-kilter representations of Southern womanhood, they are still definitely a pleasure to visit with for an evening.

Not to mention, worthy of getting smitten by.



Bean-Brown Theatre • Box Office 391-2277

News from Phi Theta

Kappa:

2007 PTK International Convention: Nashville, Tenn.

By Michelle Rosenberg

Greetings and salutations from Phi Theta Kappa! If you missed us last month, do not fear, for we have returned!

In the months of March and April, the Alpha Epsilon Iota chapter of Phi Theta Kappa joined the scores of other Phi Theta Kappa members in Montgomery and Nashville for our regional convention, and the international convention, respectfully. After the meeting of the minds, and the meeting of several distinguished guest speakers and college representatives, the 2007 Phi Theta Kappa convention circuit has drawn to a close. Though this end has come, it has not come without some great stories to tell.

On March 2, the five chapter officers and two advisors of the Alpha Epsilon Iota chapter left Shelton State, and headed south toward our capital city of Montgomery. We stayed at the Embassy Suites hotel in downtown Montgomery, and unbeknownst to ourselves, we were staying in Montgomery during the anniversary of the march on Selma. Just being there during that time was a great opportunity for the officers to witness history, especially since we shared our upscale hotel with several members of the United States Congress.

During the three day adventure, our chapter attended three general sessions to discuss our progress in community service, and to discuss our future involvement with the Phi Theta Kappa international service projects. During our first session we were honored to have the former governor of Alabama, Don Seigelman, drop in and speak with us. On this same day, whispers started about a special guest to the hotel, who required a Secret

Service escort, and a motorcade entourage.

After our second general session, all of the Alabama chapters of Phi Theta Kappa had the opportunity to visit the Civil Rights Memorial located in downtown Montgomery. The memorial



SSCC PTK Officers attending the Conference are: Patricia Latham (Incoming President), Katie Cowart (Incoming VP of Scholarship), 2006/2007 Officers: Jami Gregg - VP of Fellowship, Megan Pike - VP of Leadership, Laura Meherg - VP of Scholarship, Katie Garrett - President, Michelle Rosenberg - VP of Communication.

was a very touching, and honest account of the events that occurred to make so much progress to end racism and segregation in our country. During our free time, the chapters were able to explore Montgomery at their leisure, and do some shopping and sightseeing. When we arrived at our hotel, we learned that the whispers of the special hotel guest were not just merely whispers, and we learned that Senator Hillary Clinton was staying at the Embassy Suites. She was in town to deliver a speech in Selma on that Sunday, the 42nd anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," and she was staying at the very same hotel with the regional members of Phi Theta Kappa.

Saturday night was the banquet where different chapters received recognitions and awards. Shelton's chapter received both a Pinnacle Award for increasing membership and a Five Star Chapter Award. Laura Meherg received a

Distinguished Officer Award and Katie Garrett received a Distinguished President Award.

The 89th Annual Phi Theta Kappa International Convention was held in Nashville, Tenn., April 11-14. Two of our advisors, Claire Brock and Julia Speights, and our officers, Katie Garrett, Megan Pike, Laura Meherg, Jamie Gregg, and Michelle Rosenberg, as well as newly elected president, Patricia Latham and vice-president of scholarship, Katie Cowart, attended this convention. The convention was held at the Gaylord Hotel which is where we stayed. We were

able to walk to Opry Mills, a huge mall which included such places as the Rainforest Cafe and an IMAX theater.

The general sessions of the international convention were comparable to rock concerts. Each session began with a selection of music, then a laser light show. It really set the mood for the cheering, and excitement of

each session. On the stage, and suspended from locations toward the back of the Delta Ballroom, the location of each session, were large television monitors so that all activity onstage could be seen from all points of the huge room. The excitement that flowed through the room was unlike anything that we had experienced before.

Each session boasted a special guest speaker. The first speaker was Kevin Sharp, an internationally known country music star, and activist for the American Cancer Society and Make a Wish foundation. Mr. Sharp was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 18, and was able to make a full recovery, and live out his dream as a country singer. After several charted hits, Sharp was nominated for Best New Artist of the Year, as well as several nominations for his number one hit, "Nobody Knows." His

speech was very inspirational. He told us the story of his diagnosis and treatment, and how his journey has led him to becoming an activist for cancer research. Despite the severity of his topic, Sharp was able to keep us laughing and entertained. He stayed after his speech to sign autographs, and even came back later in the week for yet another meet-and-greet.

Between our sessions, we had educational forums, varying in topic from college transferring to specific Phi Theta Kappa activities. We had five forums in total, each of which was our choice of topics. Some educational forums offered the opportunity for participants to receive scholarships just for attending.

The second general session's speaker was Sue Smith, the National Director of Keep America Beautiful. Speaking on our service project of Operation Green, Smith delivered a wonderfully motivating speech on how to keep our landscapes beautiful, and our communities clean. She also announced that Phi Theta Kappa had planted a record-



SSCC PTK Officers attend the Awards Gala Saturday evening.

breaking number of trees in the past year, an achievement that we can all be proud of.

The third general session's speaker was Al Gore, our nation's 45th vice president, as well as an environmental activist. He spoke at this session, and participated in a question-and-answer session.

Gore was also a dynamic speaker, and very motivating in terms of protecting our deteriorating environment. He, like Sharp, also

kept us laughing and entertained, showing clips from his appearance on Saturday Night Live, as well as telling us stories of what it was like to be the "Former Future President of the United States."

The fourth and final general session featured Jehan Sadat, former first lady of Egypt, and international peace activist and activist for women's rights. Her speech provided a Middle Eastern view of the ever-present situation of the conflict between Arab and Israel, as well as telling us of the progress that her late husband, President Anwar Sadat, made during his term as the President of Egypt.

Mrs. Sadat was a phenomenal speaker, her purring voice, and calm demeanor paired with her dynamic story of her work in providing rights for women and children in Egypt left us affected and appreciative of her work.

After our sessions and forums, we were given several hours of free time to explore the city of Nashville. We visited the Wildhorse Saloon and did a little line dancing before it was closed to the under 21 crowd, and then had dinner at the Hard Rock Cafe.

The final event was the Hallmark Awards Gala. During this event, awards were given to the chapters for most outstanding Hallmarks, most distinguished chapter officers, chapter presidents, and advisors. Alpha Epsilon Iota is very proud to announce that we are in the top 100 chapters of all Phi Theta Kappa chapters. The Alabama region is proud to announce that we won awards for regional director, and for advisors. It was a great success for Alabama!

Though our 2007 convention circuit has come to a close, we are more than ready to prepare for the 2008 convention circuit. Next year's international convention will be held in Philadelphia, Pa. If you are interested in being a part of this, or just finding out more about the conventions, visit <http://www.ptk.org>

It's not too late to be a part of this! Join Phi Theta Kappa now, and join us on our adventures! See you in Philadelphia!

Norris from page 1

of other children and immediately had her singing alto and even high soprano in the adult choir and solos every other Sunday.

Since 2004 Norris has been apart of the Shelton Singers and has recently been awarded a scholarship to sing with the prestigious ensemble "Voices of Mobile" at the University of Mobile. Norris will be leaving this fall but before her departure she spoke about her time spent at Shelton.

"I have been involved with the Shelton Singers since 2004 and it has been such an amazing experience. I have been so blessed to have Glinda Blackshear and Mark Brown as my professors and Sybil Coats as my piano professor. It has been so educational; everything about the music department I recommend over the University of Alabama to anyone who asks. It's that good."

Two years ago Norris was the winner of the Shelton State Idol Contest for singers. Also, for the past two to three seasons Norris has been singing the National Anthem at Shelton State basketball games, and even once for The University of Alabama at a basketball game. She recalls the experience: "That was pretty cool, you can usually find one person that's saying: Oh, there's somebody singing the National Anthem and they're going to butcher it, and then you start singing and you can see on their faces like, wow, she can actually kind of sing. The applause afterwards was probably the best moment."

But the thrill of entertaining is not all that draws Norris to singing the National Anthem. She holds the experience close to her heart because she wasn't born in the United States; she was adopted as a baby from Paraguay South America and grew up in Demopolis. She feels that being able to sing the national anthem over and over never gets old.

As part of the Shelton Singers, Norris has had a chance to experience singing for many different types of people, at many different types of events.

She shared one experience in particular she holds dear to her heart:

"Bach to Rock has been so much fun! We as students were already friends, but driving all over God's creation in Tuscaloosa has proved our dedication as students and as singers, and being able to go to different elementary schools and middle schools who do not have any type of fine arts program is so exciting—because every child needs to be exposed to good music, music of the past and of the present and to hear it performed really well and I think we've done a good job with that; the kids always run up to us and say; you did so well, you should be on 'American Idol,' so that's a definite bonus."

Norris also said: "Just being able to have the opportunity to work with Glinda Blackshear and learn different types of music and then go and perform it and see the children's faces when they hear it is priceless."

The work Brittany has put in with the Shelton Singers has not gone unnoticed in fact she has received a \$4,500 a year scholarship for the audition only and the invitation only "Voices of Mobile" and also an academic scholarship in which she will receive \$3,000 a year.

While Brittany has no dreams of being the next American Idol or the next platinum-selling pop singer, she does have dreams of becoming a music education major and working with high school students in whom she feels she can use her experience and ability to enrich their lives and make her mark in that way.

Brittany Norris kept busy while at Shelton State. Some of her activities included: (Clockwise from top) singing the National Anthem at basketball games; running for Homecoming Queen; performing with the Bach to Rock ensemble; singing in the theatre department's production of The Mikado; and The Pirates of Penzance.

